

**Next Meeting: February 1, 2006
10:00 a.m. – Michigan Education Association**

SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Minutes of January 4, 2006 Meeting

10:00 a.m.

Present: Cindy Anderson, Beverly Baroni-Yeglic, Mike Beach, Patt Clement, Cheryl Ervin, Darlene Heard-Thomas, Elaine High, Robert Hove, Linda Keway (for Ric Hogerheide), Dara Knill, Jim Kubaiko, Paul Kubicek, Jerry Oermann, Anne Richardson, Chuck Saur, Jeff Siegel, Richard Spring, Barbara Stork, Deb Todd, Colette Ward
Ex-Officio Members: Lynn Boza, Mark Larson, Lee Martin, Doug Nurenberg (for Sheri Falvay), Michele Robinson, Jacquelyn Thompson

Absent: Gloria Anderson, Susan Backman, Donna Herrle, Patricia Keller, David Overly, Susan Peters, Julie Shore, Jan VanGasse, Julie Winkelstern, Michael Yocum

OSE/EIS Staff: Laurie Bradley, Sheryl Diamond, Fran Loose, Patti Oates-Ulrich, Beth Steenwyk, Liz Voricsek

Guests: Michelle Driscoll, Maggie Kolk, Sandi Laham

Vice Chairperson Colette Ward called the meeting to order.

Roll Call

Roll call was taken and a quorum was present.

Introduction of Guests

Guests attending the meeting were introduced.

Amend/Approve Proposed Agenda

The agenda of the January 4, 2006 meeting was considered. Hearing no amendments, the agenda was approved.

Amend/Approve Minutes

The minutes of the December 7, 2005 meeting were considered. Hearing no amendments, the minutes were approved.

Public Comment

None

Member Issues

None

Chairperson's Report – Colette Ward

A. Ad hoc committee on bylaws

Colette reported that this ad hoc committee has not yet met due to year-end business, but there is a conference call tentatively scheduled for Wednesday, January 11 at 8:00 a.m.

State Reports – Jacquelyn Thompson

A. State Board of Education Meeting

Jacquelyn reported that the State Board of Education meets on January 10. No special education action items are on the agenda; however, a number of agenda items might be of interest to everyone. The agenda is posted on the Department website a few days before the Board meeting.

Jacquelyn announced that the Board adopted credit requirements for high school graduation last month. The legislature is going to take up the issue next and may or may not adopt exactly what the Board and the Superintendent recommended. Jerry Oermann asked if the approved package included the foreign language requirement. Jacquelyn confirmed that two credits of foreign language were included.

B. IDEIA 2004 Reauthorization Activities and MDE OSE/EIS Activities – Beth Steenwyk

The SEAC requested monthly presentations on State Performance Plan (SPP) indicators. Beth Steenwyk presented on indicators 13 and 14. Beth stated that the SPP is an opportunity to look at the system in a different way, allowing transition to connect to the monitoring system and examine the system from its end result. She summarized the history of the Transition Outcomes Project (TOP). She also provided a list of accomplishments of the TOP. Recent activities have included implementation of improvement plans and the completion of a second round of data collection on Individualized Educational Plans (IEPs).

There are many variables within indicator 13 (secondary transition services) which make it difficult to collect data on it. In transition, the starting point should be what the student wants to do when he or she leaves school. The tendency is to look at how the student performs instead. Collecting the data for indicator 13 requires succinct examination of three or four different variables, including the student's goals. The target for this indicator is set for the Department and must be reported in the Annual Performance Report in 2007.

Indicator 14 (post-school outcomes) requires data collection on students who have been out of school for a year. There is no system in place to do this, so something will be developed with assistance from the National Center on Post-School Outcomes. The indicator requires data on whether the student is competitively employed or enrolled in a post-secondary school a year after leaving school. The term "competitive employment" has not yet been defined. Targets do not need to be set until February 2008 because there is no baseline data. It is anticipated that the SEAC would be involved in setting targets for indicator 14, a process that will begin approximately a year from now.

Beth stated that the power of these two indicators lies in the connection between the two. Did the IEP actually support the student to achieve his or her dreams? The National Center on Post-School Outcomes will assist in the usage of a system that can locate students a year after they leave school. The project will be piloted this year, taking students that leave in May 2005 and proctoring a survey a year later through transition coordinators either online, by phone, or by mail. The student's IEP will be in front of the proctor while the survey is administered.

Richard Spring wondered if looking at a student only a year from exit would provide an accurate picture of where they will end up in life. Beth explained that other states have administered surveys at the one-, three-, and five-year marks and found that returns are diminishing as time since exit grows. Those systems are also expensive to run. The idea of a stipend has been suggested, motivating students to return surveys. No definite decisions have been made given the lack of baseline data. Discussion followed.

Beth cautioned the SEAC regarding how they interpret the data received at today's meeting. She encouraged anyone with specific questions to write them down and get them to Beth or Laurie Bradley.

SPP implementation planning is to begin at the Office of Special Education and Early Intervention Services by the end of January.

Information Items

None

Action Items

None

Ex-Officio Reports

Institutions of Higher Education – Mark Larson – None

Michigan Department of Community Health – Doug Nurenberg – None

Michigan Department of Labor and Economic Growth/Rehabilitation Services – Lynn Boza – The organization is working with the Transition Services Association to do a pre-conference workshop for the Transition Services Conference held in Frankenmuth this March, hopefully addressing high school reform. They are also planning to do some cross training with the Department of Education.

Department of Human Services – Lee Martin – None

Michigan Department of Corrections – Michele Robinson – None

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Committee Reports

A. High School Transformation – Deb Todd

The subcommittee's outcome is rigor, relevance, relationship, restructuring, and potential unintended consequences – both positive and negative – for special education students and non-traditional learners in Michigan.

B. Post-Secondary Outcomes – Chuck Saur

Chuck stated that Beth's presentation covered much of the subcommittee's work. The group's outcomes are to utilize current shifts in regulations/high school reform and data requirements to focus and bring clarity to transition; integration within new education practices that will provide positive student outcomes; increase the quality of the transition planning process; provide advice on further operational definition of outcomes, results and adult goals; and improve teacher education on transition.

C. Suspension/Expulsion – Paul Kubicek

The subcommittee's outcome is to reduce the number of suspensions and expulsions. They would like to see relationships strengthened between staff and students and collaboration between special education and general education. They plan to examine a number of different data aggregations.

Member Announcements

Colette mentioned a message she sent to the listserv about the CIMS project webinar. Last month the committee discussed involving Parent Advisory Committees (PACs) in this process, so Colette sent information to the PAC chairs in order for them to get involved. Following the webinar, the PAC chairs hope to have Kathy Barker join the discussion via conference call.

Future Agenda Consideration

A presentation on SPP suspension and expulsion indicators will take place in February.

Process Check

Chuck Saur asked for input from the group about how the committee is doing and if it is accomplishing its goals using the processes the committee has employed. Jeff Siegel said he believed the group was meeting its goals. Beth noted that given the anticipated effect of the SPP, the structure that works now may not work in the future. Asking the SEAC to address the setting of targets is a new level of advising. Beth asked the SEAC to think about what information would be necessary to make good decisions about developing targets for indicators.

Jacquelyn asked if the format of today's SPP indicator presentation was appropriate, given that more time was taken than originally allotted for it. She believed the time was well used and necessary. The members agreed.

The meeting was adjourned to subcommittees.

Amanda Whitehead
Recording Secretary

SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Executive Committee
Minutes of January 4, 2006 Meeting
8:45 a.m.

Present: Patt Clement, Sheryl Diamond, Paul Kubicek, Sandi Laham, Fran Loose, Patti Oates-Ulrich, Chuck Saur, Beth Steenwyk, Jacquelyn Thompson, Deb Todd, Liz Voricsek, Colette Ward

Absent: Ric Hogerheide, Patricia Keller

Review of Today's Agenda

As requested by the SEAC, Beth Steenwyk will present today on State Performance Plan (SPP) indicators 13 and 14. Paul Kubicek explained the process that led the SEAC to request monthly presentations on SPP indicators in order for Beth to appropriately frame her presentation. It is estimated that the presentation will take approximately fifteen minutes.

Nominations for the 2006-07 SEAC Executive Committee are on today's agenda. Colette Ward requested delaying the process as it is done via subcommittees and the subcommittees only began meeting last month. Colette also raised a concern that some members might need to be re-approved to determine if they are eligible to serve on the executive committee. Amanda Whitehead explained the process the Department uses to determine organizational terms and term limits of individuals according to the SEAC bylaws. The executive committee decided to announce the opportunity to run for next year's executive committee and take nominations at the February meeting.

State Department Report

Jacquelyn Thompson will announce that the State Board of Education meets on January 10th. There are no special education agenda items and high school reform is not on the agenda. Beth's presentation today will cover the remainder of the State Department Report.

Subcommittee Reports

Since the subcommittees reported back to the committee of the whole at the close of last month's meeting, subcommittee reports today will be brief.

A. High School Reform – Deb Todd

Dara Knill will serve as co-chair.

B. Post-Secondary Outcomes – Chuck Saur

Donna Herrle will serve as co-chair.

C. Suspension/Expulsion/Bullying/Intimidation – Paul Kubicek

Beverly Baroni-Yeglic will serve as co-chair.

Future Agenda Development

Colette resurfaced the Parent Advisory Committee (PAC) issue raised by Deb Todd last month, requesting a presentation by Amy Colton or Sharon Dietrich be added to the agenda after the February meeting. This presentation could be coupled with a presentation on the related SPP indicator (12). Beth explained that it would be important for the SEAC to get information on the background work for developing the Request for Proposal. She also suggested waiting to present until after the Request for Proposal is published, which would slate it for June. Chuck requested that future SPP presentations take a constant format, something like a "one pager" version of the SPP.

Mike Flanagan is tentatively available to attend the May SEAC meeting. Fran Loose is to follow up with Mike's scheduling person to solidify plans.

Paul requested that SPP indicators on suspension and expulsion be covered in the February meeting to assist his subcommittee's work.

Future agendas should reflect a closing time of 2:30 with an executive committee debrief immediately following.

Other Issues

The ad hoc committee for bylaws has not yet met due to year-end business. Colette tentatively scheduled a conference call for Wednesday, January 11 at 8 a.m. Jacquelyn mentioned the need to honor the wishes of the 1998 SEAC executive committee who pioneered the legislation increasing the number of seats regarding voices to fill the new seats.

The SEAC fall retreat will be held September 17 and 18 at Winding Brook Conference Center.

Deb Todd raised a concern over the lack of a standard for determining educational loss when a student's Individualized Education Plan (IEP) is not followed. Beth advised caution in calling for a standard because the basis of the IDEA legislation is individualization and the term "standard" clouds that and places boundaries. Discussion followed. Beth suggested that the issue raised by Deb is not the need for a standard. If the student is not making progress, the plan is not individualized to the student. Deb suggested defining educational loss rather than establishing a standard.

Colette reviewed the attendance report and stated two delegates needed action taken with regard to their attendance. Amanda and Jacquelyn will each handle one of the delegates with a letter and a phone call, respectively.